



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Snowy Dodson, Chapter President

Greetings! On Saturday Dec. 1, 2007 our CNPS Chapter together with San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will be leading a natural history hike in the Hansen Dam Recreation Area. We have scheduled this event in order to highlight the natural beauty of this important San Fernando Valley wildlife area. The Park provides many acres of California native vegetation and incorporates a wildlife lake and thus is an attractive habitat for wildlife. Birders at Hansen Dam report that it is home to 280 bird species. CNPS has supported an ongoing weed eradication program aimed at removing arundo, castor bean, tree of heaven, and other invasive plants at Hansen Dam. This weed removal program has become even more important since a portion of the Park's native trees burned in a recent fire. As you can see this promises to be an interesting outing. I encourage you to join us. See the **Calendar of Events** for times and directions.

As is mentioned below in the article by Seth Shteir, there is much competition for Hansen Dam's natural resources. The Hansen Dam Recreation Area Advisory Committee meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month. Currently no one representing CNPS attends these meetings. If you have an interest in Hansen Dam and could attend the meetings please contact me via email: snowdy.dodson@csun.edu or phone: (818) 782-9346.

HANSEN DAM

By Seth Shteir, Conservation Chair,
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Hansen Dam is one of the most important recreational and wildlife areas in the San Fernando Valley. Many hikers, joggers and equestrians visit the park on a regular basis. The Dam is also home to many native plant and bird species, including the endangered Least Bell's Vireo.

However, like many other urban refuges or parks, there are many threats to Hansen Dam, including illegal ATV incursions, crime, invasive species, and large homeless encampments and off-the-leash dogs. Hansen Dam is also the site of major events that can have an impact on the wildlife and surrounding communities, such as the Fourth of July fireworks celebration and the San Fernando Valley Fair. Our organization is currently concerned about the impact of illegal fishing in the wildlife lake.

What is needed to improve conditions at Hansen Dam is the consistent presence of rangers and other law enforcement officials. The current patrols don't seem adequate for such a large and heavily used area. There is currently a plan for the construction of a ranger station at Hansen Dam in the future.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

NOVEMBER 13, 2007 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
ENCINO

YOUR NATIVE PLANT'S FIRST YEAR

Speaker: Lili Singer

Once established in the garden, California natives need minimal care. But young plants need special attention in order to thrive on their own at maturity. This program celebrates the fall planting season with a 12-month timetable of tasks from soil preparation to pruning and pest management that help new transplants strengthen and grow. Essential issues such as irrigation, mulching, and heat and frost protection will be discussed. Recommended reading: *Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*, by Bart O'Brien, Betsey Landis and Ellen Mackey, co-published by the CNPS. Copies will be available for sale at the meeting.

Lili Singer is a horticulturist, educator, *LA Times* garden writer and the newly appointed Special Projects Coordinator for the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley. In past lives, she hosted "The Garden Show," a call-in radio program on KCRW-fm, and edited two award-winning publications, *The Southern California Gardener* and *The Gardener's Companion*. In 1997, she was named Horticulturist of the Year by the Southern California Horticultural Society.

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DECEMBER 11, 2007 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

MEMBER'S POWERPOINT SHOW & TELL

CNPS members are encouraged to bring slides or images in a computer file (USB flash cards or CDs) that they would like to share featuring field trips, native plant gardens, or other relevant areas of interest. Books, posters and other items will be for sale.

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see Calendar of Events on page 3.

Visit our updated and easier to navigate chapter website at www.lacnps.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

ZERO RUNOFF SEMINAR

Friday, November 2, 2007

10am - 2pm

This seminar is free, and lunch is included!

The Santa Monica Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium

Zero runoff topics include water management legislation, water rules & regulations here in California, irrigation design, rain water catchment strategies, and harvesting rain and gray water. Please RSVP design@flowertothepeople.com so there will be enough lunches. Also, please provide contact information in the email so you can receive event updates!

ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday & Sunday, November 3 & 4

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

1500 North College Avenue, Claremont

Saturday Members preview: 8am - 11am

General Public: 11am - 4pm

Sunday: 9am-2pm

Thousands of native and California-friendly plants, including a vast selection of perennials and flowering shrubs, spring bulbs and native wildflower seeds. Free admission. Shuttle service for shoppers and plants. Experienced horticulturists to answer questions. For further information, call 909-625-8767. www.rsabg.org.

CEANOTHUS - A Horticultural Perspective of a Classic California Genus

November 8, 7:30pm at Friendship Auditorium

The Southern California Horticultural Society is sponsoring this presentation by Dave Fross, founder and president of Native Sons Wholesale Nursery in Arroyo Grande. Dave will provide information on the best cultivars to plant in gardens and landscapes. This even is FREE to the public and takes place at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027. Ample onsite free parking is available. For directions, visit the society's website at www.socahort.org.

BioBlitz

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

May 30-31, 2008 / Noon-Noon

The Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz is presented by National Geographic and the National Park Service in collaboration with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and California State Parks. Teams of naturalists, scientists, and volunteers will comb the park's 150,000+ acres, observing and recording as many species as possible. The public is invited to participate! Advance registration is required for full participation. Send an email to BioBlitz@ngs.org to be notified when online registration begins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEDRICK RANCH NATURE AREA

Volunteer Schedule for 2007-2008

The Hedrick Ranch Nature Area is a ±260 acre preserve owned by the Friends of the Santa Clara River, located on the south side of the Santa Clara River near Santa Paula. There is an active group of volunteers working to restore about 45 acres of the HRNA, via regularly scheduled workdays once per month fall through spring. Their efforts include weed abatement, planting of native plants, and establishing trails. They also spend time bird watching and looking for other wildlife, and it's a very congenial group! They start at 9:00 am and finish by 11:30 or 12. Wear long pants, boots, and sun protection, and bring water. They have tools and some gloves. Workdays for 2007-2008 will be Sunday, November 4; Saturday, December 1; Sunday, January 6; Saturday, February 2; Sunday, March 2; Saturday, April 5; and Sunday, May 4 (tentative; weather dependant). Contact Jackie Worden for directions and more information at 805-652-0577.

SAFE Landscapes

2008 Calendar and Guidebook

The University of California Cooperative Extension has introduced a calendar and guidebook: the SAFE (Sustainable and Fire-Safe) Landscapes 2008 Calendar and Guidebook. The guidelines assist homeowners to create and maintain fire-safe, environmentally-friendly landscapes in what scientists call "the wildland-urban interface" or the area where urban and suburban development meets native, natural vegetated wilderness.

In Southern California, fire is a part of the natural environment. Homes are never completely protected from wildland fire; and if one lives in a high fire hazard severity zone in the wildland-urban interface, it is not a question of if a fire occurs, but when.

Cooperative Extension's SAFE Landscapes calendar and guidebook takes residents through steps to keep properties fire-safe throughout the year. For example, the calendar encourages residents to observe good practices in and around the home, create a good fire response plan for the family, and use fire-resistant building materials and architectural features. Beyond the home, residents should develop a fire-resistant landscape that does not easily transmit fire. In addition, the calendar encourages homeowners to be good neighbors to surrounding wildlands by eliminating invasive plants that fuel wildfires, contribute to soil erosion, clog streams and rivers, increase flooding, displace native vegetation, and reduce wildland diversity.

"Wildland fire is a fact of life. Proper landscape management can help keep property and neighboring habitat safe and healthy," says Dr. Sabrina Drill, UC Cooperative Extension's natural resources advisor. To learn more about SAFE Landscapes, download the free calendar and guidebook, or get information on Cooperative Extension's upcoming fire-safe workshops, visit http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/Natural_Resources/Wildland_Fire.htm. There will be a workshop on November 17, at Malibu Bluffs Park. See above web link for details.

Our chapter's free public program on January 8, 2008, at 7:30pm at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino, will be a fire-SAFE landscape presentation by Marty O'Toole, fire control technical staff, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. All attendees will receive a free 2008 Fire-SAFE Landscapes calendar.

PROGRAMS**TUES 11/13 7:30-9:30pm***Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino***YOUR NATIVE PLANT'S
FIRST YEAR****Speaker: Lili Singer**

Directions: the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino, is on the north side of Magnolia between Balboa & Hayvenhurst. Park in the lighted lot at the east end of the garden, walk west along the path to the garden center building. Native plant and gardening books will be for sale and refreshments are served. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 6:00pm at Tony Roma's 16575 Ventura Blvd. Encino, 91436. 818-461-8400

TUES 12/11 7:30-9:30pm*First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica***MEMBER'S POWERPOINT
SHOW & TELL**

Directions: The First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica CA 90403, is one and a half blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard on 11th Street in Santa Monica. From the 10 freeway, exit at Lincoln. Go right, or north to Wilshire. Turn right. In three blocks turn left on 11th Street. The church is on the left, just past California. Church parking is on the right under an apartment complex. The Fireside Room is at the north end of the church's large patio, next to the Sanctuary. Native plant and gardening books will be for sale and refreshments are served. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 6:00pm at El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in Santa Monica at 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE PROGRAMS, PLEASE SEE "UPCOMING PROGRAMS" ON FRONT PAGE.

BOARD MEETINGS**TUES 11/6 7pm**

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Snowdy Dodson. 15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys Chapter members are invited! (818) 782-9346

TUES 12/4 7pm

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at Halli Mason's home in Tarzana. Chapter members are invited. Call for directions. (818) 345-6749

HIKES AND RESTORATION**SUN 11/11 9am****La Piedra State Beach****Invasive Plants Bygolly Begone**

This lovely bluff-top park has a weed problem easily resolved by hearty weed warriors. Join the war to eliminate the non-native plant encroachers: fennel, castor bean and a wave of smilo grass. Bring lunch, water, gloves Community service credit. *Reservations required.* 818-348-5910. 4hrs

THUR 11/15 8:30am**Caballero Canyon**

Chaparral Chatter hikes will explore the trails of a central section of the Santa Monica Mountains to see fall foliage awaiting the first rains of our spring in the fall as we hike through open chaparral and oak woodlands. Meet lower trailhead. Bring water and snack. 818-345-6749 3hrs

SUN 11/25 10am**Malibu Bluffs Park**

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Ramble two miles around the coastal park on trails with views of mountains and sea; marvel at native plants' recovery after the January wildfire; walk on the beach; return to the Bluffs and look for dolphins and whales. Meet in the Bluffs Park parking lot. 2hrs 818-345-6749

SAT 12/1 8:30 am**Hansen Dam Recreation Area**

Natural History Hike Meet in the lower parking lot accessed from the main park entrance off the intersection of Osborne & Dronefield Ave. (see www.sfvaudubon.org/birding-spots/#Hansen for further directions). CNPS and San Fernando Valley Audubon members will explore the plants, birds, other wildlife and environmental concerns for the Hansen Dam Park. Bring binoculars and/or hand lens if you have them. Rain cancels with a reschedule date of Jan. 5. 3 hrs 818-782-9346

SUN 12/9 9am**Malibu Creek State Park**

Weed Wars The California Native Plant Society Commemorative Oak Grove commemorates the lives of some awesome CNPS members. The grove brings life back to a once treeless plain. Enhance habitat in planting additional oak trees and acorns. Bring lunch, water and gloves. Receive credit for community service hours. *Reservations required.* 818-348-5910. 4hrs Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

THUR 12/13 8:30am**Caballero Canyon**

Chaparral Chatter hikes will explore the trails of a central section of the Santa Monica Mountains, the entryway to Topanga State Park. Early spring flowers in winter might include milk maids, chaparral currant and a few mountains lilacs as we hike through open chaparral and oak woodlands. Meet lower trailhead. Bring water and snack. 818-345-6749 3hrs

TUE 12/25 10am**Cold Creek Preserve**

Annual Holiday Toyon Trek is an easy-paced 6-mile, 1200' gain loop Christmas Day hike through Cold Creek Canyon Preserve. Bring water, lunch, goodies to share. Rain cancels. Meet at Lower Stunt High Trailhead. Info: 310-822-6848. 4hrs Sponsored by the Sierra Club.

SUN 12/30 9:30am**Solstice Canyon Park**

Canyon Caper The bubbling Solstice Creek flows downstream and along a trail canopied by stately oaks and tall alders. The winter/spring season combines with winter rains and harbingers of spring. Bring lunch, water. 3hrs. 818-345-6749

Late Fall Southern Desert Field Trip - Nov. 12 – 16

Come enjoy the southern desert sponsored by the Center for Biological Diversity, Desert Protective Council and the California Native Plant Society. Highlights include monitoring archeological sites outside of Anza Borrego SP, fall blooms on the Algodones dunes, and the exploration of the major wash system in the eastern Colorado desert - Milpitas wash. Botanizing, birding, light hiking and discovery of unique places in these underexplored desert areas. Limited to 20 people. High clearance vehicles required. Please RSVP to Ilene Anderson at 323-654-5943 or ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org

Plant Sale 2007 Recap

It was a beautiful weekend. Saturday presented itself with blue skies, with big white puffy clouds hovering over the mountains hemming in the San Fernando Valley on its northern side. A strong desert wind occasionally had us scurrying after anything that wasn't nailed down. Temperatures started out in the 70s and climbed up to the low 80s on Sunday.

Our plants for our Annual California Native Plant Sale were set up in the lawn area adjacent to the community building in the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino. We had an extensive supply of good-looking plants. There was a steady stream of customers throughout the days, some purchasing in large quantities, others wanting to try just a few native plants to convert a small portion of their garden, and others yet, to purchase just one plant for a special location. It was a very successful fund-raiser for us and we feel that we reached many first-timers who wanted to learn more about California's native plants.

Our book store set up inside the new community building was headed by Jo Kitz and ably assisted by Olga Hammer and Katy Okun. It was a great success with our customers. Lots of new titles; a good selection of books for young and old.

The Cold Creek Docents and the San Fernando Audubon Society had their attractive educational displays set up and many people stopped by their tables to get information. Carolyn Oppenheimer, Pam Huffman and Linda Jones were the volunteers from the Audubon Society, Nancy Helsley represented the Cold Creek Docents.

Betsey Landis and her son Frank set-up shop with a great selection of seeds. This is an annual happening and as always Betsey and Frank sold lots of seeds and dispensed a lot of good information and gave valuable tips on what to do with those seeds.

And what would we ever do without Henrietta and Bill Yuan, who, along with their adorable grand-daughter Michelle, cooked up the delicious pea soup, kept the coffee hot, grilled the chicken and hot dogs just at the time when your stomach started to grumble, put out some great home-baked pastry to help us through the afternoons with a little sugar-fix?

As an added attraction this year we offered two lectures each day, each one with a different speaker. The lectures were very well attended, much to our delight. The first lecture was with Alrie Middlebrook who after the talk signed her newly published book (co-authored by Glenn Keator) "Designing California Native Gardens" (now available from our book store). The afternoon lecture was with Trish and Chris Myer. Sunday's lectures were with Gabi and Cliff McLean and Lili Singer; all provided valuable information on how to establish native gardens, how to convert your lawn, and how to avoid pitfalls and the dos and don'ts in native gardens.

We also had a few vendors. Salley Bagley and Steve Veenstra sold gourds artistically decorated by Steve; Barbara Jacobs brought in her creations of pretty ceramics; Joni Krevoy promoted biodegradable cleaning products thru Shaklee; and Peter and Sylvia Asco, who have come to our plant sales for close to 10 years, had a small supply of their beautiful t-shirts.



With all the preparations that go into an event like this, one hopes that the turn-out is good. And for that we have to thank Ileene Anderson for doing a great job on advance publicity, as well as Steve and Leslie Hartman for sending out over fifteen-hundred postcards to previous attendees of the plant sale.

And speaking of preparations: Friday afternoon preceding the Plant Sale is a busy time. Dona Timlin, Katy Okun, Ileene Anderson, David Hollombe, Melanie Hartman, Justin Baker, Jo Kitz, David Eklund, Henry Carlton, Steve Hartman, Patty Jones, Sandra Glover came to help with the set-up. I would also like to mention and thank Gus who helps Patricia Jones at the Garden Center. He was there early in the morning to let us in, open the gates and doors and made sure that all was locked up at the end of the day.

Many of those who helped Friday were there to help again on Saturday and/or Sunday: Christine Walker got into the spirit of writing up people with their plant orders, (Christine also donated a stack of beautiful note cards) Leslie Hartman was the cheerful greeter at our hospitality table, (Alrie Middlebrook and Henry Carlton took over those duties on Sunday), Trish and Chris Myer helped in selling plants, along with Ileene Anderson, David Hollombe, Bob Sussman, and Steve Hartman. Marianne Peck faithfully operated the cash register all day Sunday. She has probably volunteered her time for this job at least 10 years in a row (other than missing one year for medical reasons). Rick Hassenstab came on Saturday. It was so helpful to have him there helping customers to their cars and bringing back the carts. Olga's friend Karen Hudson came Sunday afternoon to help all the other book store volunteers with packing up the books.

I hope I did not forget anyone. I try to keep track of all the wonderful volunteers and all the activities that are connected with this annual plant sale. But sometimes things fall thru the cracks or off my radar screen. Forgive me if that happened. Be assured that you all were much appreciated.

We missed Margaret Huffman, who had to spend a few days in the hospital after a fall, and our esteemed chapter president, Snowy Dodson, who was attending a work-related conference in Florida.

To all of you: many, many thanks!

Halli

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS FOR CHAPTER ELECTION**SNOWDY DODSON: PRESIDENT**

Snowdy has completed two terms as President of our Chapter and is willing to continue on. She has previously held the position of President for SEAL (Science and Engineering Academic Librarians). She has been active at the chapter level of CNPS by co-chairing the Wildflower Show for 5 years; she has worked as a volunteer at the plant sale (3 years); she has led field trips at the Malibu Bluffs State Park; she has participated in our chapter weed wars at Malibu Bluffs Park, Malibu Creek State Park, and also helped the Channel Islands CNPS chapter with a restoration project; she has helped with the TOYON; during the past three years she has served as Chapter alternate representative to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee and attended field trips.

BETSEY LANDIS: CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE TO STATE CNPS

I would like to continue as Chapter Delegate for the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter for 2008. I have been Chapter Delegate for several years. I am able to attend the four yearly Chapter Council meetings and I serve on several Chapter Council committees. My goal as Chapter Delegate is to ensure that State CNPS organizational structure and Chapters' independence work well together toward the common goal of preservation and enjoyment of California native flora.

JO KITZ: CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Jo has served as treasurer, president and vice president of the chapter. Since the 1980s Jo has served as the 'general' of the weed warriors, those sturdy volunteers who clear resource lands of non-native invasive species and runs the chapter bookstore. She works at the Mountain Restoration Trust, a local land trust that owns over 2000 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains and has 30 years of volunteer service towards the resource protection of the Santa Monica Mountains.

HALLI MASON: CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Halli has been an active member of CNPS since the early 80s, first on the local chapter level then for many years on the state level. Halli has also been elected to bring her knowledge and people skill to many different committees. She has been an effective fund raiser motivating many CNPS members to work with her in the Earth Share campaigns (the Payroll Deduction Plan for the Environment).

SHEILA BRADEN: CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Sheila has been regularly attending chapter board meetings. Sheila is a park ranger for the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mtns.

HENRIETTA YUAN: SECRETARY

I will run again this year for Secretary having been in this position for over twenty years.

STEVE HARTMAN: TREASURER

I have been handling the finances for the chapter for well over a decade. I'd like to contribute to the chapter by continuing to handle the chapter finances. My other chapter activities include serving as newsletter editor, co-plant sale chair, and representing our chapter on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee.

CHAPTER MEMBER'S BALLOT
FOR
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
LOS ANGELES / SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2007-2008

Vote for each office. See above for candidate statements. We have no contested offices, but it is important that members of our chapter vote support of our Chapter's goals and programs. After voting, mail the ballot to CNPS, 4728 Rosita Place, Tarzana, California 91356. December 1, 2006, is the deadline for mailing.

PRESIDENT

Snowdy Dodson

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Jo Kitz & Halli Mason
& Sheila Braden

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

Betsey Landis

SECRETARY

Henrietta Yuan

TREASURER

Steve Hartman

Thanks so much for voting! Cut out this ballot, insert in an envelope and mail.



LOS ANGELES • SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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CHAPTER BALLOT INSIDE! PLEASE VOTE

TIME VALUE

Toyon VOLUME 27 Number 6
 NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2007

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THANKS

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Write or phone David Hollombe (323) 934-0332. Include your e-mail address. Be sure to notify State CNPS Office, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.